

ER Site No. 16: Open Dumps (Arroyo del Coyote)

ADS: 1309

Operable Unit: Tijeras Arroyo

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Site History

ER Site 16 is located along Arroyo del Coyote where it crosses the access road to Technical Areas III/V and extends northeast and southwest of the road. Site 16 was used as a dump and a gravel quarry. Dumping began between 1959 and 1967. Access to the site is uncontrolled. The site is no longer active.

ER Site 16 covers 28 acres. Process knowledge indicates that the following were dumped on the site:

- construction demolition debris from facilities known to have used depleted uranium, such as Building 9939 and the TA-III Sled Track;
- concrete laser targets;
- rocket debris, foam insulation, cans, wood, and rebar;
- spent smoke canisters;
- large concrete crucibles used to test concrete-sodium reactions (Building 9939);
- a concrete septic tank
- piles of fire bricks (2 piles with asbestos);
- a pile of oil shale and slag dumped between 1983 and 1985;
- numerous piles of soil apparently from the large excavation to build the TA-V facilities deposited between 1959 and 1967;
- a large charcoal filter; and
- potting compounds (inert materials, such as epoxies and plastic foams).

In January 1994, a visual surface inspection found no unexploded ordnance or high explosives. In February 1994, a RUST Geotech radiological survey located 21 anomalies consisting of debris piles and depleted uranium fragments. In November 1994, a photographic interpretation was completed. In the first half of 1995 a voluntary corrective measure was conducted to pick up depleted uranium fragments. In May 1995, a soil vapor and geophysical surveys were completed with no significant findings. In June and November 1995, soil samples were taken and analyzed

for metals and volatile organics. In June, October, and November of 1996, more voluntary corrective measures removed 419 drums of soil contaminated with depleted uranium (DU). The final VCM occurred from November 1997-April 1998 to remove DU and asbestos. The site was reseeded in April 1999.

Constituents of Concern

The only constituents of concern are depleted uranium and asbestos.

Current Hazards

No chemical or radioactive hazards are present at ER Site 16.

Current Status of Work

A Voluntary Corrective Measure was completed in April 1998 to remove the DU and asbestos.

A No Further Action (NFA) Proposal was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in September 1999. On March 23, 2000 this site was accepted for NFA. The NFA was approved by NMED in October 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

No further work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

To date, 422 drums of radioactive waste have been generated at this site from the RUST Geotech radiological activities. About 100 drums of waste were generated at ER Site 16 during the final VCM. Some of this waste was radioactive waste and some was asbestos waste. All waste has been shipped to off-site, permitted disposal facilities.

Information for ER Site 16 was last updated Jan 20, 2003.